


Directive: 1.0

Subject: Oath of Office - Ethics		Number of Pages: 2
Distribution: All Personnel	Amends: WD 1.0 (8/15/16)	This Order Cancels: N/A
Date of Issue: 7/1/21	Date of Review: 6/28/21	Date of Approval: 6/29/21
Issued By: Robert Tracy Chief of Police		

OATH OF OFFICE AND CODE OF ETHICS

Purpose and Overview

- A. To require members of the Wilmington Department of Police to be sworn into their official duties through the administering of an oath of office.
- B. To require all members of the department to abide by the departmental “Code of Ethics.”

Oath of Office

All personnel, prior to assuming sworn status with the Wilmington Department of Police will take and subsequently abide by the oath of office. The oath will be administered by the Chief of Police or his designee, and states: “I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Delaware, I will in all respects and at all times give true allegiance to the duly constituted authorities of the Government of the United States, of the State of Delaware, and the city of Wilmington, and that I will faithfully discharge the duties as a member of the Department of Police to which I have been appointed. I do further solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will obey in all respects the Rules and Regulations of the Department of Police now in force or hereafter to be adopted, and superior officers in the Department of Police, and that I will obey all laws of the State of Delaware and of the United States, all ordinances of the City of Wilmington and regulations of every other state or community where I may be at any time while a member of the Department of Police.”

Code of Ethics

All sworn members of the Department of Police will abide by the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics.

“As a member of the Wilmington Department of Police, my first duty is to serve the people of Wilmington. I will safeguard lives and property; protect the innocent against deception, the weak against oppression or intimidation, and the peaceful against violence or disorder. Above all else, I shall respect the constitutional rights of all citizens to liberty, equality, and justice.

I will keep my private life unsullied as an example to all, maintaining courageous calm in the face of danger, scorn, or ridicule; develop self-restraint; and be constantly mindful of the welfare of others. I will be honest in (thought) and deed in both my personal and official life and exemplary in obeying the laws of the land and the regulations of my department.

I will regard my fellow officer with the same standards as I hold myself. It is my duty to guard his honor and life as I guard my own.

Whatever I see or hear of a confidential nature or that is confided to me in my official capacity, will be kept ever secret unless revelation is necessary in the performance of my duty. I will never act officiously or permit personal feelings, prejudices, animosities or friendships to influence my decisions.

With no compromise for crime and with relentless prosecution of criminals, I will enforce the law courteously and appropriately without fear or favor, accepting gratuities. I shall be loyal to my superiors who determine my policy and accept responsibility for my actions. It is my duty to do only those things which will reflect honor upon them, me, and my profession.

I recognize the badge of my office as a symbol of public faith, and I accept it as a public trust to be held so long as I am true to the ethics of police service. I will constantly strive to achieve these objectives and ideals, dedicating myself before God to my chosen profession . . .law enforcement.”

Protection of Public Employees

Any employee who is aware of violations or suspected violations of federal, state and local laws, regulations or ordinances by other employees, and who reports the violations or suspected violations (unless the employee knows the report is false), is protected under State of Delaware, Title 29 §5115, “Protection of Public Employees Reporting Suspected Violations of Law.”

Mission Statement

The mission of the Wilmington Department of Police is to work in a true partnership with our fellow citizens, and to raise the level of public safety through law enforcement and thereby reduce the fear and incidence of crime. This mission will be fostered by every member of the Department through citizen contact. As the most visible sign of government and authority, all personnel will endeavor to represent the Department in a favorable light. By being courteous, understanding, caring, and helpful, we gain the respect and willing cooperation of the citizenry. At the same time, we enhance the image of the Department and increase respect for the profession.